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2. HUNGARIAN BORDER CONTROLS REMAIN STRONG

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Despite the removal of some mines and barbed wire fences, Hungary's control over its border with Austria apparently is as strong as that which existed before the 9 May announcement of a plan to remove all technical barriers. Two high-level Austrian officials who recently toured the border region announced that in most areas little or no progress is being made on this highly advertised example of the lifting of the iron curtain.

Other Austrian officials have recently reported that the Hungarians have greatly increased the number and armament of border guard troops along the entire border. The American embassy in Vienna reports that only 41 Hungarian refugees entered Austria in June--slightly less than the average of the preceding three months--thus providing further evidence that border controls remain strong.

The propaganda value of Hungarian and Czech efforts to remove the more obvious border barriers has been negligible. Recent border incidents have inflamed anti-Satellite sentiments among the Austrian public.

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3. VISIT OF LAOTIAN PREMIER TO PEIPING
25X1A REPORTED IMMINENT

[redacted] Laotian premier Souvanna Phouma is planning to leave Laos for an official visit to Peiping about 19 August, [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] negotiations between the royal government and the Pathet Lao will probably not have ended by that time, [redacted] such a visit would give the Chinese Communists a chance to exert heavy pressure for a settlement favorable to the Pathet Lao and themselves. [redacted]

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Comment

Chou En-lai invited Souvanna to visit Peiping last May, but the Laotian premier has consistently indicated he would not go until the Pathet issue was resolved. A wide measure of agreement in principle has been reached between the government and the Pathet Lao representatives in Vientiane. Agreement on the details of such key issues as the restoration of the government's authority in northern Laos, elections, and the integration of Pathet personnel into the royal army and civil administration may, however, be protracted.

In connection with the May invitation, Souvanna has stated that any trip to Peiping would be in the nature only of a "courtesy visit." Discussions with the Chinese Communists at this time, however, might influence the Laotian government to adopt a more generous attitude toward the Pathets, and would probably accelerate establishment of relations with Peiping.

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**BIWEEKLY SUMMARY
(26 July-8 August 1956)**

THE TAIWAN STRAIT

**Report of the IAC Current Intelligence Group
for the Taiwan Strait Problem**

- 1. There were no significant developments in the
area during the period.**

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